DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Please clarify this.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Sir, my good friend, Dr. Subbarami Reddy, has good business knowledge. He will appreciate that any company of the size of Air India, with an equity of only 145 crores, cannot do such a big quantum of business, or, can go for such a large acquisition programme. Equity, as you know, is something that comes to the company. It is not to be serviced; it is not to be paid back. Therefore, equity for such a large company is vital. And, as an owner of an airline, either you raise it from the public through IPOs, or, you as the owner, that is, the Government will have to put in the equity. This is as a private owner of a private airline who will bring in his own equity. Here it is the case of the Government. So, the Government shall have to bring in the equity. Dr. Karan Singh is also here, I would also like to state that the Air India, in its sixty years of existence, has never been paid even a single rupee by the Government. It had only got equity of Rs. 145 crores then. That is what is continuing till now. In fact, the Government has been paid back by the Air India many times, by way dividends, in the last sixty years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Question Hour is over.

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Employment to agricultural workers through NREGS

*144. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is keeping any data base with regard to the employment provided through National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) to the agricultural workers;

(b) the details of annual working days for agricultural workers including the Statewise data;

(c) whether Government would enact a comprehensive Central Legislation for these agricultural workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Rural Development has no proposal under consideration for a comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural workers.

Approval of Private Universities

*146. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: